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## AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

*From the 20th March to the 20th April, 1815.*

The weather has been so dry during the last and present month, that all the oats and a great part of the barley crops have been got into the ground in good time. Latterly the soil has been too dry for sowing flaxseed, and that part of the spring work seems at a stand, few people chusing to sow until there is some prospect of rain. On that account principally, and not from any redundancy of the article, flaxseed has experienced a dull sale. Those who were so provident as to save seed last year, have had a great advantage over those who depended on the foreign supply; and a few farmers, who saved it in a proper manner, by stacking the flax, have produced seed of so superior a quality as to command a sale in the markets, at a much higher price than any foreign seed would bring; and by their showing others what could be done in that way, in this country, have excited a general desire to follow the example, especially in those districts where a preference has always been given to Riga or other northern seed. The flax of American seed, being more liable to that distemper called firing, can seldom be allowed to stand until the seed comes to maturity.

The wheat crops continue to look well; and if the succeeding part of the season prove favourable, will give an abundant produce. The early sown oats, and those sown in autumn, have also a good appearance in general. The very dry weather, and frosts at night, with cold easterly winds, are likely to check the flax crops.

Wheat and oats have experienced a considerable reduction in price, in the course of the last month. Oatmeal, which at one time brought thirty shillings per hundred, is now selling from 22 shillings to 24; and potatoes now appear to be in greater abundance than was expected in the early part of the season.

*A correspondent in the neighbourhood of Antrim sends the following account.*

On the 6th of May, 1812, having three Cork-red potatoes, that contained 64 sets or eyes, I cut each eye through the centre, making the sets out of three potatoes 128, which I planted with the plough, in the common drill way. I gave them no other care or attention than the other potatoes in the same three acre field; and the drills in which they were set, were equal to any in the field, and superior to most. When raised at November, they produced 5 stone 5 pounds weight.

I am making a similar experiment on a larger scale this year.

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 COMMERCIAL REPORT.

Trade, at all times uncertain, and attended by the vicissitudes incident to all human affairs, has for some years past been rendered more than usually uncertain, by the circumstances of a war, in which it has been the policy of the belligerents reciprocally to direct their destructive energies against the trade of the other: war being now fully as much a question of finance, as of military prowess, and the finances of a nation being especially founded on commerce and manufactures. Trade, being interrupted in its usual course, opened for itself a deceptive channel for a time, in wild and daring speculations. This new channel soon failed, to the ruin of some, and the great loss of many more. We know what has happened among ourselves; and the losses which have befallen our own merchants may be taken as a sample, by no means an aggravated one, of the general state of the trade of the Empire; for Belfast cannot be considered as having been more unsuccessful than the average of other places; and it is well known that large sums have been lost by our merchants, in the course of the last five years. Some have gained, but the losses of others have been so considerable, as probably rather to turn the general balance to the side of loss, than of profit.

Liverpool also comes in for a full share of distress from the war. The great trade with America is nearly annihilated, and the increase of pauperism is feelingly detailed in an extract from the Liverpool Mercury, placed among the Occurrences, at page